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<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/706,677	COTTONGIM ET AL.	
	Examiner Tuyet Vo	Art Unit 2821	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to 3/04/2004.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-47.
3.  The drawings filed on 04 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 2/25/2004
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.



**TUYET VO**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

## DETAIL ACTION

### *Examiner's Amendment*

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as following:

In the specification, page 11, lines 1 and 2, delete "Figure 10 illustrates a light fixture 1000 having a ballast 1010 that employs the present invention".

In the claim, claim 1, line 3, delete ";" after "and";  
claim 16, line 7, delete "and" after "ballast";  
claim 18, line 9, delete "and" after "ballast";  
claim 20, line 9, delete ";" after "and";  
claim 26, line 7, delete "and" after "ballast"; and  
claim 28, line 9, delete "and" after "ballast".

The above noted amendment has been added in order to provide a clarification of the specification and consistent format in the claim language as well.

### *Reasons For Allowance*

2. Claims 1-47 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to disclose a control circuitry utilizes a step function or a combination of step and continuous functions in order to reduce/increase an output current in response to a temperature detection during ballast operation without shutting its down when supplying a power to a load/lamp as required in claims 1, 20, 29, 33 and 45.
4. The remaining dependent claims are allowable for at least above reason.

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5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicants' disclosure. Sakata et al. (US Pat. 5,083,065) discloses lighting device for electric discharge lamp. Takata et al. (US Pat. 5,079,409) discloses heater control system. Faxon (US Pat. 3,673,538) discloses composite thermistor temperature sensor having step-function response. Duffy et al. (US Pub. 2002/0171985) discloses system, device and method for providing voltage regulation to a microelectronic device. None of cited prior arts stands alone or combination with others discloses all limitation required in claim invention.

*Correspondence*

Any comments considered necessarily by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuyet Vo whose telephone number is 571 272 1830. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571 272 1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding assigned is 703 872 9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 0956.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tuyet Vo".

Tuyet Vo  
Primary Examiner  
February 21, 2005